

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USNMR SHAPE

CINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

USAREUR

SECDEF WASHDC

DIRNSA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1675

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND CAGLAYANGIL VISIT

REF: STATE 49283 DTG 281719Z FEB 76

1. I AM MOST GRATEFUL FOR INFORMATION PROVIDED REFTTEL, WHICH PROVIDED PARTICULARLY HELPFUL POINTS REGARDING THE CONGRESSIONAL SITUATION AND THE TURNOVER OF KARAMURSEL.

2. IN RESPECT TO STREAMLINING, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD ALSO DECIDE WHETHER WE SHOULD OFFER THE TURKS TRAINING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO PERMIT THEM TO TAKE OVER OPERATION OF KARGABURUN LORAN STATION. THE KARGABURUN FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS HAVE IN THEMSELVES LITTLE IF ANY INTEREST FOR THE TURKS, PROSPECTIVE POLITICAL BENEFITS FROM ITS TURNOVER SHOULD HAVE SOME APPEAL IF THE U.S. PAID OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (EXCLUDING PERSONNEL) COSTS, AS WE UNDERSTAND IS THE CASE IN CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES. IT IS TO BE MADE, THIS OFFER SHOULD, I BELIEVE, BE RESERVED FOR THE MARCH 24-25 WASHINGTON VISIT.

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3. I HOPE THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE TO FILL ME IN SOONEST WITH AS DEFINITIVE AS POSSIBLE A DESCRIPTION THE THE SWEETENERS THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR MARCH 24-25 TALKS. THIS SUBJECT IS VERY MUCH ON FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL'S MIND, AND WHENEVER I ENCOUNTER HIM, HE INVARIABLY ASKS WHAT FURTHER NEWS I HAVE CONCERNING IT FROM WASHINGTON. UNTIL I SEE THE SHAPE AND CONTENT OF THE FULL SWEETENERS PACKAGE, I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE THE DEPARTMENT A JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER ITS CONTENT OFFERS A REASONABLE HOPE OF BRIDGING OUR CURRENT DEFENSE SUPPORT GAP. IN OTHER WORDS, UNTIL I HAVE THIS INFORMATION I CANNOT ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT AS TO WHAT I THINK THE PROSPECTS ARE OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON THIS KEY ISSUE DURING THE CAGLAYANGIL VISIT. ALSO, IF I AM TOO UNRESPONSIVE TO CURRENT GOT PROBING AS TO THE NATURE OF THE SWEETENERS, I BELIEVE THIS MAY BE TAKEN BY CAGLAYANGIL AND ELEKDAG AS A SIGNAL THAT WE ARE GOING TO COME UP WITH A CUPBOARD THAT IS TOO BARE. THUS, THE DANGER IS THAT BY SAYING TOO LITTLE ON THE SUBJECT OF SWEETENERS AHEAD OF TIME, WE RUN THE RISK OF AGAIN ABORTING THE TRIP ALTOGETHER.

4. IF CURRENT WASHINGTON EFFORTS ARE SUCCESSFUL IN PRODUCING WHAT SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO TURKS AS AN ADEQUATE SWEETENERS PACKAGE, THERE REMAINS THE QUESTION OF JUST WHAT SHOULD BE REVEALED ABOUT IT TO CAGLAYANGIL, PRE-WASHINGTON. BUT THAT I CANNOT JUDGE UNTIL I SEE THE ENTIRE PACKAGE. THEREFORE, AS SOON AS THE DEPARTMENT IS ABLE TO GET A COMPLETE SWEETENERS LIST TO ME, I WILL (BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER WITH THE GOT) MAKE A SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION ON THIS SUBJECT.
MACOMBER

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